

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of modulating an activity of a cell comprising contacting the cell with an agonist or antagonist of DCRS9 (SEQ ID NOs:11 or 12) or of IL-17C (SEQ ID NOs:23 or 24), wherein the cell modulates:
 - a) psoriasis;
 - b) inflammatory bowel disorder (IBD);
 - c) interstitial lung disorder;
 - d) asthma or allergy; or
 - e) atherosclerosis.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the cell is:
 - a) a monocyte or a macrophage;
 - b) a dendritic cell;
 - c) an epithelial cell;
 - d) an endothelial cell; or
 - e) a keratinocyte.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the activity is cytokine expression.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the agonist or antagonist specifically binds to a polypeptide or nucleic acid of:
 - a) DCRS9 (SEQ ID NOs:11 or 12); or
 - b) IL-17C (SEQ ID NOs:23 or 24).

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the agonist or antagonist comprises a binding composition derived from an antigen binding site of an antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide of:

- a) DCRS9 (SEQ ID NO:12); or
- b) IL-17C (SEQ ID NO:24).

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the binding composition comprises:

- a) a polyclonal antibody;
- b) a monoclonal antibody;
- c) a humanized antibody;
- d) an Fab, Fv, or F(ab')₂ fragment; or
- e) a peptide mimetic of an antibody.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the antagonist comprises a soluble receptor derived from DCRS9 (SEQ ID NO:12).

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the antagonist comprises an:

- a) anti-sense nucleic acid; or
- b) interference RNA nucleic acid.

9. A method of treating a subject suffering from a disorder comprising:

- a) psoriasis;
- b) inflammatory bowel disorder (IBD);
- c) interstitial lung disorder;
- d) asthma or allergy; or
- e) atherosclerosis;

by administering an effective amount of an agonist or antagonist of DCRS9 (SEQ ID NOs:11 or 12) or of IL-17C (SEQ ID NOs:23 or 24).

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the disorder is mediated by:
 - a) monocytes or macrophages;
 - b) dendritic cells;
 - c) epithelial cells;
 - d) endothelial cells; or
 - e) keratinocytes.
11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the interstitial lung disorder comprises:
 - a) idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis;
 - b) eosinophilic granuloma; or
 - c) hypersensitivity pneumonitis.
12. The method of Claim 9, wherein the IBD comprises:
 - a) Crohn's disease; or
 - b) ulcerative colitis.
13. The method of Claim 9, wherein the agonist or antagonist specifically binds to a polypeptide or nucleic acid of:
 - a) DCRS9 (SEQ ID NOS:11 or 12); or
 - b) IL-17C (SEQ ID NOS:23 or 24).
14. The method of Claim 9, wherein the antagonist is a binding composition derived from an antigen binding site of an antibody that specifically binds to a polypeptide of:
 - a) DCRS9 (SEQ ID NO:12); or
 - b) IL-17C (SEQ ID NO:24).

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the binding composition comprises:
 - a) a polyclonal antibody;
 - b) a monoclonal antibody;
 - c) a humanized antibody;
 - d) an Fab, Fv, or F(ab')₂ fragment; or
 - e) a peptide mimetic of an antibody.
16. The method of Claim 9, wherein the agonist or antagonist is a soluble receptor derived from DCRS9 (SEQ ID NO:24).
17. The method of Claim 9, wherein the antagonist comprises an:
 - a) anti-sense nucleic acid; or
 - b) interference RNA nucleic acid.
18. A method of diagnosing a disorder of the method of Claim 9 comprising contacting a sample from a test subject with a binding composition that specifically binds to a polypeptide or nucleic acid of:
 - a) DCRS9 (SEQ ID NOs:11 or 12); or
 - b) IL-17C (SEQ ID NOs:23 or 24).
19. The method of Claim 18, wherein the sample is derived from a tissue, cell, or biological fluid.
20. The method of Claim 18, further comprising:
 - a) contacting a sample from a normal subject or a control source with the binding composition; and
 - b) comparing the binding to the test subject with the binding to the normal subject or control source.